

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

Foster youth are one of the populations considered to be at the highest risk for experiencing homelessness after they are emancipated from the child welfare system. Currently, over 1000 young adults leave the foster care system each year to transition into adulthood. I am concerned that, without the proper support systems in place, that many of these youth will fall into homelessness, which will lead to criminal activity, jail, or worse.

Any support system that we provide these young people begins with housing. The Department of Children and Family Services has in place a Transitional Housing Program for emancipated foster youth, however, the number of beds available clearly do not reflect the needs. I am also concerned about strategic placement of available housing in areas with large concentrations of foster youth. Currently, Los Angeles County is undergoing a review of all policies around transitioning or discharging people at highest risk of homelessness from the County's systems of support, including jails, hospitals, and the foster care system. I would like to see the THP program undergo a thorough review through this process, to ensure we are doing all we can to help foster youth meet the challenges of young adulthood and make a solid start in their lives.

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services work in concert with the Emancipation Program Partnership, to develop enhancements to the Transitional Housing Program .

I FURTHER MOVE that the recommendations for enhancing this program, be included in the CAO's recommendations on the County's discharge policies.

NI:ni